

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SSC-01 OMB-01

AID-20 SAB-01 DRC-01 /114 W
----- 078019

O R 010810Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A TEL AVIV 1168

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT: STATUS REPORT

REF: TEL AVIV 1154

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS IN LAST TWENTY-
FOUR HOURS OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE. LATEST REPORTS AVAILABLE
TO US INDICATE THAT DAYAN IS STICKING TO HIS REFUSAL TO SERVE
IN NEW GOVT BUT THAT PERES IS SITTING ON THE FENCE. RAFI
(DAYAN'S) FACTION WILL MEET AGAIN MARCH 2, APPARENTLY TO
DISCUSS ONCE AGAIN ITS POSITION NOW THAT DAYAN'S REFUSAL IS
REPORTEDLY FINAL. WE HAVE HEARD FROM ONE USUALLY WELL INFORMED
SOURCE THAT RAFI MAY PROPOSE TO MRS MEIR THAT PERES TAKE
OVER THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, ALLOWING RAFI TO CONTINUE OCCUPYING
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ONE OF KEY MINISTRIES AND ALSO LEAVING DOOR OPEN FOR POSSIBLE

RETURN OF DAYAN TO GOVT AT LATER DATE. MRS MEIR'S
TENTATIVE DECISION (CONFIRMED TO ME BY EBAN) TO MAKE RABIN
DEFENSE MINISTER IF DAYAN DOES NOT JOIN CABINET MUST HAVE
MADE RAFI APPREHENSIVE, SINCE RABIN AS EX-CHIEF OF STAFF
COULD NOT EASILY BE DISLODGED LATER TO FACILITATE DAYAN RETURN.

2. LABOR KNESSET MEMBER SARID TOLD US THIS MORNING THAT
MRS MEIR CURRENTLY WOULD PRESENT NAMES OF HER NEW CABINET
TO JOINT MEETING OF LABOR ALIGNMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND
LABOR KNESSET FACTION MARCH 3, AFTER WHICH SHE WOULD PRESENT
CABINET TO PRESIDENT KATZIR AND KNESSET SOMETIME DURING WEEK.
WHILE MRS MEIR REPORTEDLY HOPES TO GO TO KNESSET WITH CABINE
ON MARCH 5, THIS DEADLINE IN OUR VIEW MAY YET SLIP.
IT SHOULD BE NOTED LAW REQUIRES THAT OUTGOING
CABINET RESIGN 48 HOURS BEFORE PRESENTATION OF NEW ONE TO
KNESSET.

3. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY IS STILL DEBATING WHETHER TO JOIN
GOVT AND WILL RECONVENE ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND
KNESSET FACTIN MARCH 3.
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